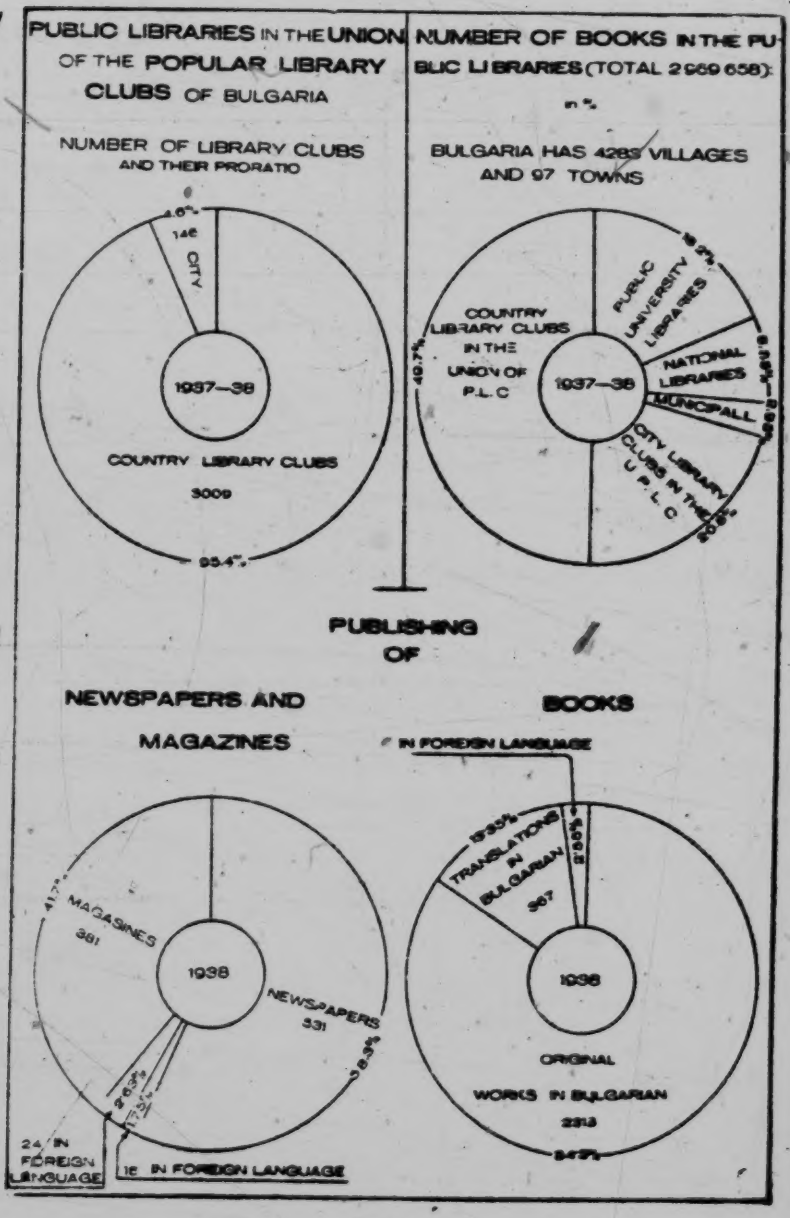
217




214

Fig. 24.

8: Bojkoff K-4,5 (no date) 1946 EE1 Bulgaria EE1



Particular features of public instruction in schools are given in the drawings (fig. 21-23). Bulgaria could properly boast of a vast system of instruction dating from the time of Turkish political and Greek spiritual dominion and oppression. This national system of public instruction penetrated down to the lowest strata of the population and helped the Bulgarian people to preserve their existence for centuries past.

**51. Bulgarian Reading Rooms.** The Bulgarian reading rooms (libraries) are a national institution for education, which were started during the Turkish domination (1393-1878), when the people guarded and developed their enlightenment with their own means. The national reading rooms to-day are organized in a National Union of Reading Rooms, supported by the State. Supplementing the information given in the drawings (Fig. 24) we will give the following data:

The books in the reading rooms are distributed, according to their topics and subject matter, in the following manner for 1938:

| | *Village reading rooms* | | *City reading rooms* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Number of books* | *%* | *Number of books* | *%* |
| Art and literature | 679,885 | 47.7 | 269,898 | 45.3 |
| General works | 210,330 | 14.8 | 88,987 | 14.9 |
| Medecine, agriculture, household economy | 124,606 | 8.8 | 32,704 | 5.5 |
| History, geography, biography | 114,333 | 8.0 | 51,501 | 8.6 |
| Social science | 100,415 | 7.0 | 60,154 | 10.1 |
| Mathematics, natural history | 32,677 | 2.3 | 20,053 | 3.3 |
| Religion | 32,644 | 2.3 | 13,401 | 2.2 |
| Philosophy | 30,613 | 2.2 | 19,128 | 3.2 |
| Others | 98,705 | 6.9 | 40,998 | 6.9 |
| Total | 1,424,208 | 100.0 | 596,824 | 100.0 |

We have not included in the above statement the books in the municipal libraries, in the large national libraries, supported by the state, as well as in the libraries of the universities and other learned institutions.

**52. Cooperative Activity in Bulgaria** We may safely say that Bulgaria is a country of cooperative organizations. This tendency in the economic life of the country is inherited too from the long submission to Turkish authority (1393-1878), which was devoid of any